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Self-Portrait (J.M.W. Turner)

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[Tate Britain](#) holds a [self-portrait](#) of [J.M.W. Turner](#) which it dates to c.1798 or c.1799, when the artist was aged about 23 or 24 years old.^[1]

The oil painting on canvas portrait measures 74.3 cm × 58.4 cm (29.3 in × 23.0 in). It presents a full face-on half-length view of the fresh-faced young artist, looking directly out at the viewer. His brightly lit features stand out against a featureless brown background. The [Romanticised](#) and idealised view of Turner shows him as a prosperous Georgian gentleman, befitting his success and status, with the collar of his dark coat turned up, two waistcoats, silver over blue, a white shirt and a white neckcloth. Notably, the composition has reduced the impact of Turner's prominent [aquiline nose](#).

The painting may have been made in anticipation of or to mark Turner's election as an Associate member of the [Royal Academy of Arts](#) (ARA) in November 1799. It was donated to the British nation as part of the [Turner Bequest](#) on his death in 1851. It was held by the [National Gallery](#) until 1910, when it was transferred to the [Tate Gallery](#).

This portrait was the basis for the depiction of Turner on the reverse of the Series G [Bank of England £20 note](#) issued from 2020, in front of a version of his 1838 painting *The Fighting Temeraire*.




References [\[edit \]](#)

1. ^ "Art UK | Discover Artworks" .artuk.org. Retrieved 2021-01-18.

- 'Self-Portrait', Joseph Mallord William Turner, c.1799   , Tate Gallery
- Self-Portrait, JMW Turner (c1799)   , The Guardian, 5 May 2001

<div></div> <div><div>V · T · E</div><div></div></div>	J. M. W. Turner <div>[hide]</div>
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